

DECEMBER 4, 2024  
"FOR YOU AND ALL THE WORLD"



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT I

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MOLINE, ILLINOIS

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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MIDWEEK OF ADVENT I

*December 4, 2024*

EVENING PRAYER

“FOR YOU AND ALL THE WORLD”

The good news of Christ's birth is both universal and personal. The angel's proclamation, "good news of great joy... for all the people" (Luke 2:10), and the heavenly host's declaration of "peace among men" emphasize Christ's universal mission of salvation. While this good news is for all, it is also deeply personal. The angel's message to the shepherds, "for unto you is born this day... a Savior" (Luke 2:11), reminds us that this salvation is intended for each individual. As part of humanity, we are the recipients of this divine gift. What do we find in Christ? Peace. He reconciles us with the Father, bridging the gap created by sin. We who were once alienated are now brought near to God through His Son. We experience peace with Him.

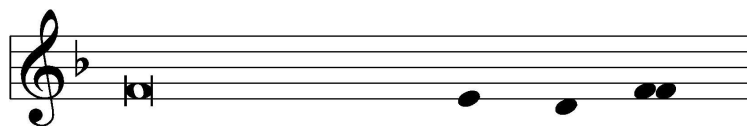
- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 O enter with Thy grace divine;  
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
 Until our glorious goal is won.  
 Eternal praise and fame  
 We offer to Thy name.

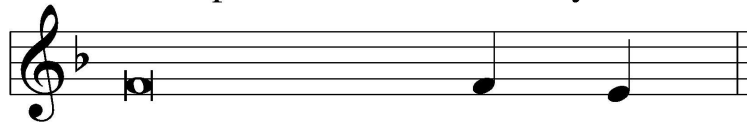
*Stand*

## Service of Light

*LSB 243*



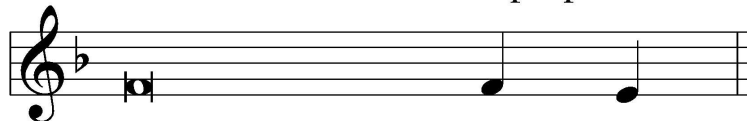
**L** The Spirit and the Church cry out:



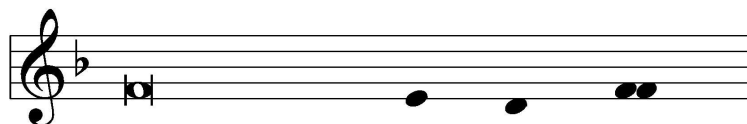
**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



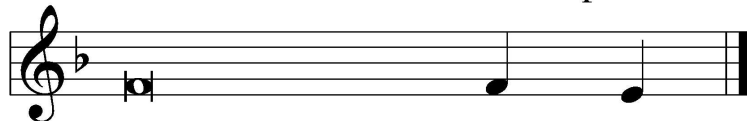
**L** All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.



**L** The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



**C** Come, Lord Je - sus.

Phos Hilaron: "O Light Whose Splendor"

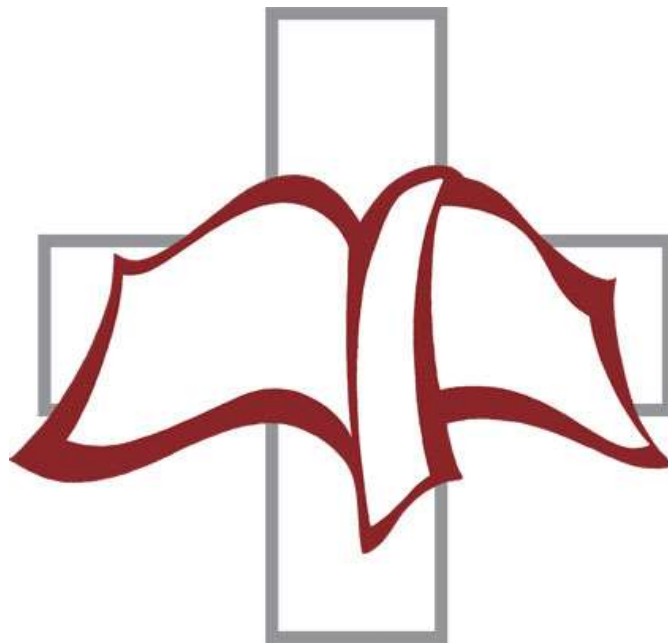
LSB 891

1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

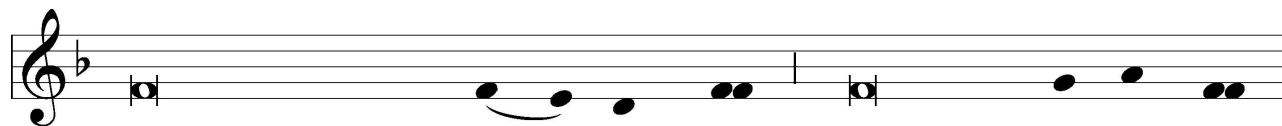
Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

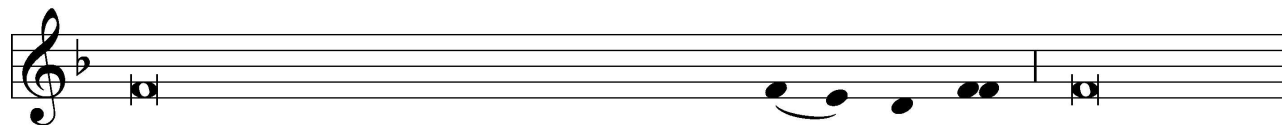


# Thanksgiving For Light

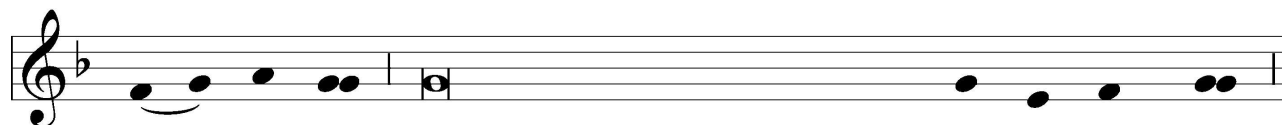
LSB 245



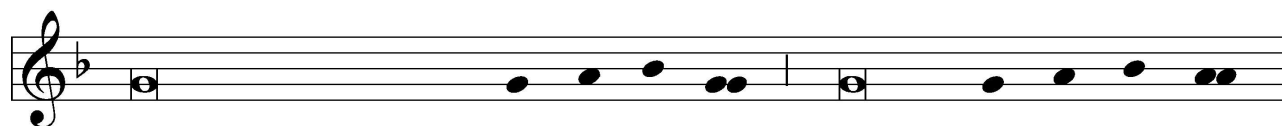
**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of



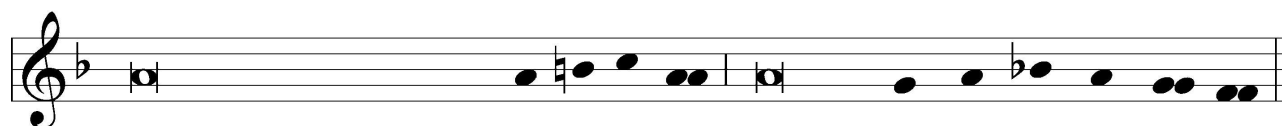
fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ;



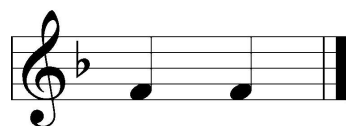
may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;



for You are mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*



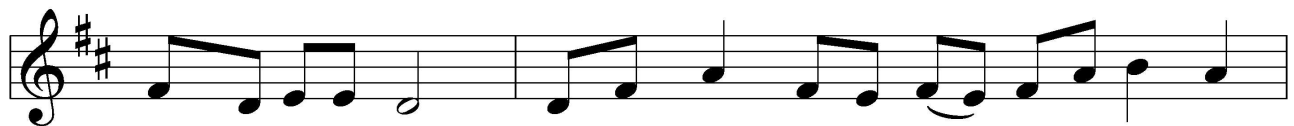
**C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



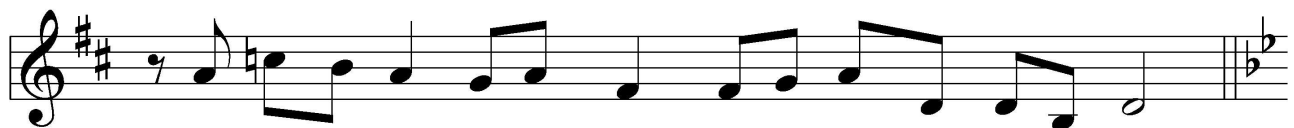
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



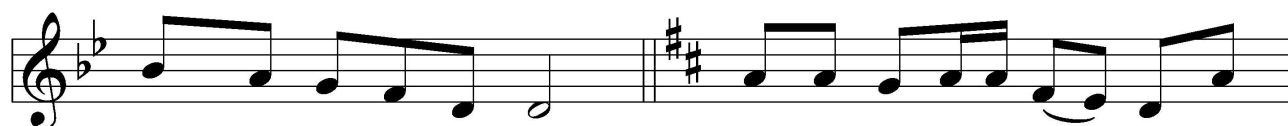
**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.



**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.



Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and



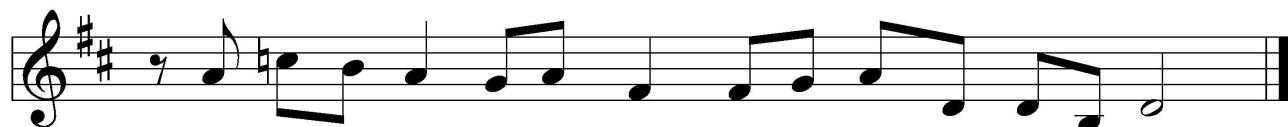
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**L** *Let us pray...* Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.



Lift up your heads, O gates! And be  
lifted up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and the full- | ness thereof,\*  
the world and those who | dwell therein,

**<sup>2</sup>for he has founded it up- | on the seas\*  
and established it upon the | rivers.**

<sup>3</sup>Who shall ascend the hill | of the LORD?\*

And who shall stand in his | holy place?

**<sup>4</sup>He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,\*  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear de- | ceitfully.**

<sup>5</sup>He will receive blessing | from the LORD\*  
and righteousness from the God of his sal- | vation.

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who | seek him,\*  
who seek the face of the God of | Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

**<sup>8</sup>Who is this King of | glory?\***  
**The LORD, strong and mighty,**  
**the LORD, mighty in | battle!**

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

**<sup>10</sup>Who is this King of | glory?\***  
**The LORD of hosts,**  
**he is the King of | glory!**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Lift up your heads, O gates! And be  
lifted up , O | ancient doors,\*  
that the King of glory | may come in.

**Hymn: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

*LSB 334*

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart’s delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
- 2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
    You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
    You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
    A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
    As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
    Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
    Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
    That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
    Our lost and fallen race.
- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
    Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
    And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
    The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
    Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,  
    A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
    And blessèd hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
    O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
    And guide us safely home.

# The Holy Scriptures

## First Reading

*Genesis 12:1–3*

**L** A reading from Genesis, chapter 12.

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*1 John 4:9–14*

**L** A reading from 1 John, chapter 4.

<sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

<sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

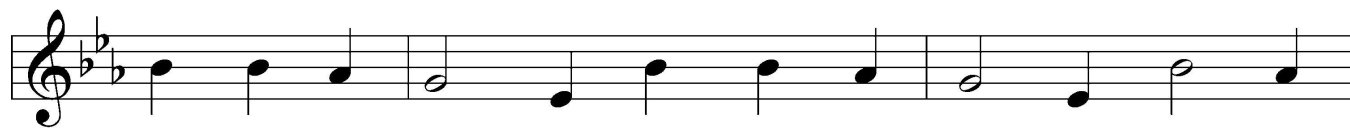
**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Stand

Canticle: "My Soul Rejoices"

LSB 933



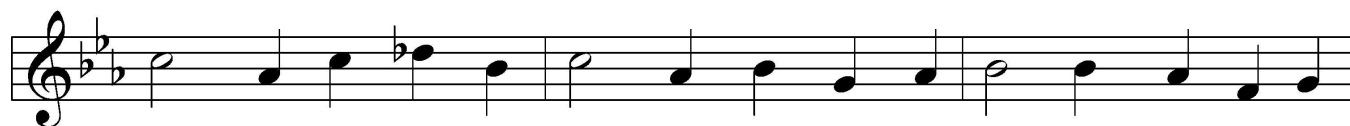
1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

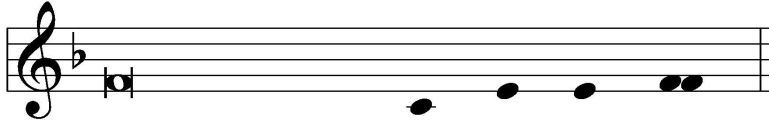


sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

*The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.*



**L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

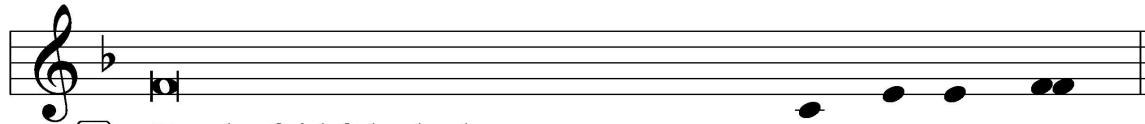


**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For Matthew, our synod president, Michael, our district president, Timothy, our Circuit Visitor, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** Lord, have mercy.

- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

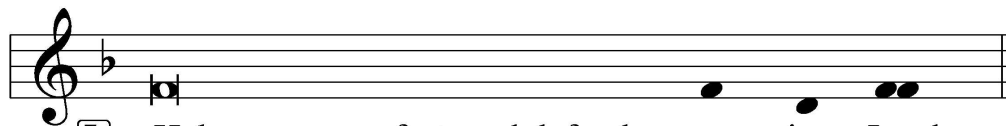
*The prayers then continue:*



- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:



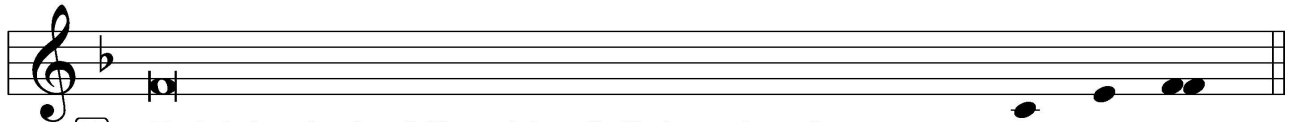
- C** Al - le - lu - ia.



- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*





**L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

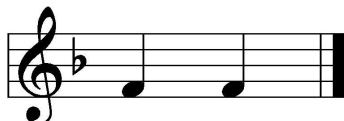


**C** To You, O Lord.

## Collect for Peace

LSB 251

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**



- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
  - 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
  - 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To\_ enrich the humble poor.
  - 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.
-

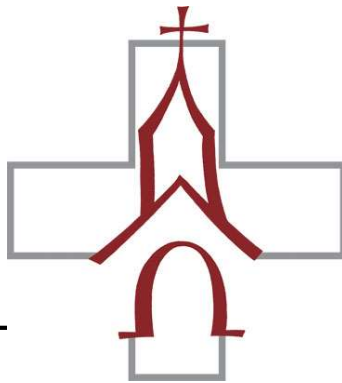
# **THANK YOU TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE**

**Preacher:** Rev. Gary A. Wright

**Organist:** Bruce Noah

**Elder: 7:00 P.M.:** Lew Steinbrecher

**Videographers:** *Rick Serre, Max Serre, Alex Serre*



## **Acknowledgments**

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